

## Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00  
NSAE-00 L-03 /018 W  
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R 231928Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9355  
INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO 21

UNCLAS MEXICO 16089

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: VIS  
SUBJECT: VISA VALIDITY, BORDER CROSSING CARDS AND RECIPROCITY

REF MEXICO OM, MAR 15, 1976, MEXICO 9127, JULY 16.

1. DISCUSSION OF BORDER CORSSING CARDS AT CONSULAR CONFERENCE  
RAISES OLD QUESTIONS OF RECIPROCITY. EMBASSY'S POSITION IS  
AND HAS BEEN THAT GOM LACK OF VISA AND PASSPORT REQUIREMENT  
FOR U.S. CITIZENS IS FIRM BASIS FOR ISSUANCE OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT INDEFINITE-VALIDITY DOCUMENT. MEXICAN REQUIREMENT  
FOR OBTAINING SIX-MONTH VALIDITY TOURIST CARDS APPEARS TO  
COINCIDE WITH INS I-92 DOCUMENT COUPLED WITH REFUSAL TO EXTEND  
STAY BEYOND MAXIMUM SIX MONTHS STAY AT ONE TIME ON B-2 VISA.

2. SIMILARLY, LACK OF CONFORMITY BY GOM OFFICIALS IN  
APPLYING MEXICAN TARIFF OF FEES, AS POINTED OUT IN OM OF  
MARCH 1, 1976, REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION, RESULTS IN U.S.  
BUSINESSMEN GENERALLY BEING ADMITTED TO MEXICO WITH GRATIS  
TOURIST CARD TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WHILE U.S. POSTS CHARGE FEES FOR  
LIMITED VALIDITY B-1. REF OM SUGGESTED GRATIS B-1S FOR  
MANY CATEGORIES OF MEXICAN BUSINESSMEN AND OTHERS.  
ON BALANCE, WE NOW THINK ONE OF FOLLOWING MEASURES  
SHOULD BE ADOPTED COUNTRY-WIDE. IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE,  
THESE ARE:  
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(A) CREATION OF A NEW, DEPARTMENT OF STATE BORDER  
CROSSING DOCUMENT SIMILAR TO THAT ISSUED IN CANADA. THIS  
WOULD BE, IN EFFECT, A B-1/B-2 MULTIPLE ENTRY, INDEFINITE  
VALIDITY VISA WHICH WOULD BE VALID EVEN IF THE PASSPORT IN  
WHICH IT IS STAMPED HAS EXPIRED. IF THIS ALTERNATIVE

IS ADOPTED, THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY SHOULD URGE INS TO FOREGO REQUIREMENT OF A FORM I-94 AT THE PORT OF ENTRY, AT LEAST FOR TRIPS TO BORDER AREAS, AS THEY DO NOW FOR HOLDERS OF MEXICAN BORDER CROSSING CARDS.

(B) IF THE ABOVE IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE REQUEST THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE INDEFINITE VALIDITY B-1/B-2 VISAS. IN CASES WHERE A LIMITED B-1 SEEMS ADVISABLE, NO FEE SHOULD BE CHARGED. NATURALLY, ONLY APPLICANTS WHO APPEAR TO BE CLEARLY BONA-FIDE WOULD BE ISSUED INDEFINITE-VALIDITY VISAS. SINCE MEXICAN FEDERAL PASSPORTS ARE VALID FOR A MAXIMUM OF SIX YEARS, THIS WOULD ONLY EXTEND THE MAXIMUM VALIDITY OF A B-2 VISA FOR TWO YEARS.

(C) IF INDEFINITE VALIDITY B-1 VISAS CANNOT BE AUTHORIZED, WE URGE AT LEAST THE AUTHORIZATION OF GRATIS FOUR-YEAR MULTIPLE B-1S.

3. IF (A) OR (B) ABOVE IS APPROVED, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL MEXICAN POSTS SHOULD DISCONTINUE THE ISSUANCE OF FORMS I-186 BORDER CROSSING CARDS. WE FURTHER DISAGREE WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT CONSULAR POSTS SHOULD ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF FORMS I-92 FOR INS.

4. PENDING DEPARTMENT'S REPLY, ALL POSTS IN MEXICO WILL CONTINUE THEIR PRESENT POLICIES. AS THERE IS NOW NO COUNTRY-WIDE POLICY ON PROCESSING OR ISSUANCE OF BCC'S, THE DEPARTMENT IS URGED TO RESPOND TO THIS MESSAGE ASAP SO THE EMBASSY AND CONSTITUENT POSTS MAY IMPLEMENT ONE.  
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